

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

April 3, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT Auditorium

Commission Members Present:

MS Department of Corrections	Chris Epps
MS Department of Information Technology Services	David Litchliter
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS Dept of Public Safety	Charlie Williams
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Keith Harkins
MS Department of Homeland Security	Byron Thompson
MS Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
MS Department of Health	Mike Scales
MS Highway Patrol	David Shaw
MS National Guard	General Harold Cross
MS Emergency Management Agency	Mike Womack
MS Police Chiefs' Association	Tommy Moffett
MS Fire Chiefs' Association	Tom Lariviere
MS Municipal League	Robert Brown
MS Sheriffs' Association	James Newman
Safe City Initiative	Mark McCreery

Advisory Members Present:

Representative Tyrone Ellis
Senator Nolan Mettetal

Chairman Chris Epps called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Charlie Williams made the motion, and it was seconded by General Harold Cross. The motion passed with none opposed. Chairman Epps recognized Senator Mettetal as a new advisory committee member and named the other new advisory committee members who were unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman Epps stated the election of vice-chair would be conducted by a voice vote as stated in the law and opened the floor for nominations. Charlie Williams nominated Mike Womack, and the nomination was seconded by General Harold Cross. Tommy Moffett nominated Joel Yelverton, and the nomination was seconded by Tom Lariviere. Willie Huff nominated Jay Ledbetter, but Chairman Epps indicated that it would be best not to allow the nomination since Mr. Ledbetter was not present. Charlie Williams made a motion to close the nominations, and it was seconded by General Harold Cross. The roll was called, and the votes were tallied as follows:

Chris Epps -	Mike Womack
David Shaw -	Mike Womack
Robert Brown -	Joel Yelverton
Keith Harkins -	Mike Womack
Willie Huff -	Joel Yelverton
General Harold Cross -	Mike Womack
Tom Lariviere -	Joel Yelverton
Byron Thompson -	Mike Womack
David Litchliter -	Mike Womack
Mark McCreery -	Mike Womack

Tommy Moffett -	Joel Yelverton
James Newman -	Joel Yelverton
Mike Scales -	Joel Yelverton
Charlie Williams -	Mike Womack
Mike Womack -	Mike Womack
Joel Yelverton -	Joel Yelverton

Mike Womack received nine votes, and Joel Yelverton received seven votes. Mike Womack was announced as the new vice-chairman.

Joel Yelverton reported for the Procurement Review Committee. There were two requests submitted for approval. Both were eligible for committee approval. DeSoto County made a request for P25 Motorola radios at a cost of \$236,568. They will be interoperable with the state system, and the committee approved the request. The City of Gulfport made a request for P25 radios and accessories at a cost of \$176,102. They are MA/COM radios, and were reported to be interoperable with the state system. The committee approved the request. At the last meeting, changes to the procurement rules were discussed. Those changes are still available for public comment, but will come before the commission next month for approval. Mr. Yelverton asked for any questions.

There was no report given from the Interoperability Committee.

Willie Huff reported for the Governance Committee. He stated that the local governments are concerned about whether this system is going to be a state agency system or a statewide radio system. Mr. Huff stated that he would be able to give a report next month about framework for the governance of the system. He reminded the commission that the largest user group on the system will be the locals, and we should keep that in mind when talking with them about issues and concerns. There will need to be MOUs signed, and fees for using the system will need to be determined. The most asked question is "When will the system reach my area?". Mr. Huff asked for any questions. Representative Tyrone Ellis was recognized. He asked what was being done so that when the system is completed in the coastal counties we will be able to communicate with them from Jackson if a hurricane hits. Mr. Huff explained that the FEMA system is operational now in the lower six counties and in Pike County. We can communicate with this system from Jackson through a gateway. MSWIN may or may not be operational by hurricane season, but we are prepared to use the FEMA system. We will be able to talk from Jackson on the MSWIN system when Phase II is completed. There was a discussion of how the system would work in case of various failures. Chairman Epps stated that he had heard good comments about the meetings with the local governments around the state.

General Harold Cross expressed concern that not enough attention is being paid to protocol as to who will be able to talk on the system and when. If there is no protocol, the frequencies could become jammed. Mr. Huff stated that the WCC has been talking with FEMA about this situation, and this is a part of the system development. Assignment and use of frequencies must be a disciplined process. General Cross stated that there is only so much bandwidth available, and it can become saturated. There was a detailed discussion about frequency availability. Chairman Epps stated that nothing was in writing at this time, but the situation has been considered.

Mike Scales asked how agencies without assets, such as radios, would be able to use the system. Mr. Womack explained that some radios would be available. Bill Buffington stated that there are currently 700 radios in stock that are to be used with the Sites on Wheels (SOWs). Mr. Buffington elaborated on the previous discussion about frequency protocol. He stated that

the plan for priority has been discussed, and there is a report available to anyone who would like to review it.

Bill Buffington gave a project update. Mr. Huff and the WCC team attended the Homeland Security Conference in Tunica to talk about the system, and the turnout was good. The first newsletter has been circulated. The WCC staff and some commission members traveled to Illinois for the testing of the equipment needed to implement Phase 1A. The testing went well, and the equipment for 18 sites was shipped. It will be installed by June. Site selection is still progressing. There are three sites left to be determined in Phase I. Site selection work has started in the north part of the state. Mr. Buffington asked if there were any questions. Mike Womack questioned how much money had been obligated that was not reported on the expense report. Mr. Buffington stated that about \$3.8 million has been obligated, but no invoices have been received. Mr. Womack questioned how much it will take to get us where we need to be by June. Mr. Buffington answered that there is a balance of about \$2 million. Chairman Epps questioned if anyone was planning to appear before the conventions of the Chiefs' or Sheriffs' associations. Mr. Buffington stated that Mr. Huff has been attending these meetings, and the WCC staff is responding to all requests from local governments. The newsletter should help get information out to the local governments. Chairman Epps requested that Mr. Huff let the Commission members know when he will be attending these events so they will have the opportunity to go as well.

David Litchliter reported the monthly expenses for March. The total was \$102,945. A handout with a breakdown of the expenses was distributed to the commission members. Payments on equipment will begin within the next few months. Chairman Epps asked for a motion to approve the expenses for March. Mike Womack made the motion, and it was seconded by Tommy Moffett. The motion passed with none opposed.

There was discussion concerning resubmission of the previous WCC resolution to the Bond Commission. The resolution requested the Bond Commission to approve the sale of the \$20 million bonds previously authorized by the Legislature. Chairman Epps asked for a motion to resubmit the resolution to the Bond Commission for \$20 million. Mr. Huff made the motion, and it was seconded by Tommy Moffett. The motion passed with none opposed. Mr. Epps stated that the Governor's Office is working on funding for this project. Representative Ellis stated that he would like for the WCC Advisory Board to meet, and he would like the commission members to attend to talk about what is needed.

Mark McCreery stated that the State Auditor's office should be involved in this project, and Mr. Litchliter stated that the WCC had already been in contact with the Auditor's office to discuss particulars of fixed asset inventory.

The next meeting will be May 1, 2008, in the MDOT auditorium at 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM.